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CIA to Share Operations Data With Foreign Affairs Panel

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Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Central Intelligence Director William E. Colby have concurred in an unprecedented agreement to share CIA secrets on covert political operations abroad with members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

At a closed meeting on Capitol Hill last Friday the two officials also affirmed that no covert operations comparable to those targeted against the Allende government in Chile are now in progress anywhere in the world.

The assurances stopped short, however, of a guarantee by Kissinger and Colby that the agency would not engage in future operations against incumbent governments or other political targets.

Until now the CIA has briefed only a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee now headed by Rep. Lucien Nedzi (D-Mich.) on secret political operations abroad. Such briefings were also provided the Senate

counterpart, an Armed Services subcommittee chaired by Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.)

The agreement was greeted with a note of skeptical appreciation by Rep. Michael Harrington (D-Mass.), the man who touched off the recent Chile controversy with his letters demanding further congressional inquiry into U.S. covert activities against the late Salvador Allende in Chile.

"It's a positive, though belated, start," said Harrington who is petitioning along with Reps. Benjamin J. Rosenthal (D-N.Y.) and Donald W. Riegel Jr. (D-Mich.) for full House hearings on the U.S. role in Allende's election and subsequent downfall.

Nedzi, a prime mover in working out the new agreement, said Kissinger and Colby had also provided assurances that the congressional subcommittees would be briefed on any pending covert activities before they were undertaken. "Nobody said we're going to give you veto power," Nedzi commented. "But my understanding is that we

would be told before rather than after."

The Michigan Democrat, who has said that he personally disapproves of the Chilean operations, said the understanding with Colby and Kissinger covers decisions of the "Committee of Forty" of the National Security Council.

Until last year the existence of the "Forty Committee" was virtually unknown on Capitol Hill, even among the members of the CIA oversight committees.

Nedzi's subcommittee learned for the first time of the scope of U.S.-financed anti-Allende activities—some \$11 million worth—last April 22. The covert programs were in effect in 1964 and again from 1969 to 1973, according to a summary of Colby's testimony

before Nedzi compiled by Harrington from the secret transcript.

The new agreement was hinted at in an announcement yesterday by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas E. Morgan (D-Pa.) that his committee would receive information about overseas activities of the United States "which affect our foreign policy and United States relations with foreign countries—including covert activities."

It was unclear whether a corresponding arrangement is being considered in the Senate, where information on covert action is restricted now to the Senate Armed Services Committee.